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**THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

**National Intelligence Council**NIC #8671-82  
26 October 1982**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**FROM :** Major General Edward B. Atkeson, USA  
: National Intelligence Officer for General Purpose Forces

**SUBJECT :** Interview with Commandant, USMC

1. NIO/GPF met with General Robert H. Barrow, Commandant, USMC at 1130 hours, 26 October 1982. The principal purpose of the meeting was to acquaint the General with the existence and functions of the NIC and with the GPF program.

2. The Commandant was particularly interested in the current proposal for an NIE on Soviet Forces opposite the Persian Gulf. In his view "it is long overdue." He believes that inadequate consideration has been given in many studies on the subject of assessing the difficulties which the Soviets would encounter in executing an advance to the Gulf and the time such an operation would take. He believes we need to examine the climate, terrain, choke points along routes of advance, and likely degree of resistance offered by indigenous forces. He feels that a better assessment of these factors, made in conjunction with judgments regarding the strengths, readiness and capabilities of the Soviet forces themselves, would provide us a more realistic sense of the time which the US might have to react to aggression. He also cited a need to point out within the estimate points of Soviet vulnerability to Western response. General Barrow desires to review and comment on the terms of reference and concept papers for the NIE before the study is undertaken.

3. Another matter of particular interest to the Commandant is the exploitation of intelligence evidence of wrongful behavior on the Soviets' part. He cited allegations of use of toxic gasses, slave labor and slave labor trade with Vietnam as instances of such opportunities. He believes that the Intelligence Community should make a special effort to surface matters of this type with policymakers, providing as complete evidence as possible, and make recommendations as to how the information might be most effectively used for international psychological advantage.

4. General Barrow is not especially concerned with possible weaknesses in intelligence support to military program and budget

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decisionmaking. He is aware of and understands General Meyer's dissatisfaction, but believes that the circumstances are different for the Marine Corps.

5. General Barrow was interested in the NIO/GPF draft [redacted] He [redacted]  
[redacted] retained a copy for review. [redacted]

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*for* Edward B. Atkeson

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